

presented. Claims 33, 45, and 56 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action mailed August 23, 1996 that the subject application contains allowable subject matter, and that Claims 1-21, 23-32, 34-44, and 46-55 are allowed. Of these, Claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 23-26, 34, 35, 43, 44, 46, 47, and 55 have been amended to improve their form. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not affect the allowability of these claims in manner whatsoever.

The disclosure stands objected to on formal grounds for the reasons given in paragraphs 4 and 5 at page 3 of the Office Action. Further, the Examiner requests Applicants' cooperation to correct any errors of which Applicants become aware in reviewing the specification. In response, Applicants have amended the specification with particular attention paid to the items identified by the Examiner in paragraphs 4 and 5 at page 3 of the Office Action. Further, the specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended to effect formal changes pertaining to idiom, syntax, grammar, typographical errors, and the like. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the disclosure and the specification be withdrawn.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 22 has been amended with particular attention paid to the language

identified by the Examiner in paragraph 7 at page 4 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that Claim 22 fully satisfies the requirements of Section 112 and, accordingly, request withdrawal of its rejection under Section 112.

Claims 33, 45, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second and fourth paragraphs, for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 7 and 8 at page 4 of the Office Action. Claims 33, 45, and 56 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering their rejections under Section 112 moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections of these claims respectfully is requested.

The drawings stand objected to for the reasons given in paragraphs 1-3 at page 2 of the Office Action. With particular reference to the objections of paragraphs 1 and 3, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Request for Approval to Amend Drawings filed concurrently herewith in which Figures 1-3 and 6 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections. With particular reference to the objections in paragraph 2 at page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended the specification at page 24, line 21; page 27, line 18; page 28, line 16; and page 31, line 17. Further, reference numeral 110 and its associated lead lines have been deleted from Figure 4 in the accompanying Request for Approval to Amend Drawings. Accordingly, Applicants have fully responded to each of the objections to the drawings raised in the Office Action and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the same.

Claims 57-125 are newly presented to provide Applicants an additional scope of protection. More specifically, Claims 57-79 have been added in favor of canceled Claim 33; Claims 80-102 have been added in favor of canceled Claim 45; and Claims 103-125 have been added in favor of canceled Claim 56. For the Examiner's convenience, it is noted that each of these three sets of dependent claims have been modeled after pending dependent Claims 2-24.

Applicants respectfully submit that newly-presented dependent Claims 57-125 are allowable at least for the reasons that their respective base claims were indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the newly-presented dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and objections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance respectfully are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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